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Administrator,

ORD had a successful meeting with ECOS/ERIS this week during the ECOS Spring Meeting. We were able to share our new video highlighting the partnerships we have developed with our state partners and introduce the new ECOS members to EPA research.

Hot issues

PFAS Update

EPA has partnered with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) to support NJ DEP's investigation into the nature and extent of PFAS environmental contamination in areas of concern near industrial sources in southwestern New Jersey. EPA's role in this partnership is to analyze environmental samples collected by NJ DEP for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In a recent analysis of 57 water samples, EPA scientists used targeted laboratory analysis methods to identify and measure concentrations of ten PFAS compounds. The samples included surface water samples and non-potable well water samples. EPA will share a report of these analyses with NJ DEP for their review and use. EPA's analyses found that concentrations of the ten PFAS in the water samples ranged from below detection to a maximum of 2,290 nanograms per liter. The study's results will be used by NJ DEP to better understand the nature and extent of PFAS environmental contamination and source attribution.

GAO Report on Scientific Integrity

GAO has released its final report, *Scientific Integrity Policies: Additional Actions Could Strengthen Integrity of Federal Research*. The report includes numerous positive references to EPA's scientific integrity program. It also cites many aspects of EPA's implementation of its Scientific Integrity Policy as examples for other federal departments and agencies to follow. There are no recommendations for improvements for EPA, while there are 10 recommendations distributed across six departments/agencies to "ensure their policies are protecting scientific integrity." See the full GAO report at <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-265>

Journal article: sequential sampling for evaluating lead

ORD's Darren Lytle and Mike Schock are coauthors, along with Region 5 scientists, on the paper, "[Sequential drinking water sampling as a tool for evaluating lead in Flint, Michigan](#)" published in *Water Research*. This paper used sequential sampling results from Flint to determine that lead service lines were the greatest source of lead compared to brass fittings, brass fixtures, and galvanized pipes.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events (look out two weeks)

Massachusetts DEP Visit

On April 16, ORD senior management (Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta and Chris Robbins) and scientists will be visiting Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Senator William X. Wall Experiment Station in Lawrence, MA. This visit will include a tour of the state lab facilities along with discussions on state topics of interest and related S&T needs, as well as potential collaborations. Discussions will focus on the following topics that Massachusetts DEP identified were of most interest to their state: PFAS, microbial source tracking pathogens in ambient waters, and cyanotoxins in drinking water sources.

Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

On April 23-24, the BOSC Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) Subcommittee will hold a public meeting at EPA in Washington, DC to discuss the Strategic Research Action Plan for the SSWR program.